

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 19, 21-27, 29-35, 37-42, 44-49, 53-57, and 61-64 are pending in the application, with claims 19, 27, 35, 42, and 49 being the independent claims.

Based on the following Remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19, 27, 28, 35, 42, 44, 49-51, 53, 56-58, 60, and 63-64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly having been obvious from Tye (U.S. Pat. No. 4,529,719) in view of Marschall *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,380,824) and Rauch *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,084,558). Rejected claims 1-19, 28, 50-51, 58, and 60 have been canceled, and thus the rejection of these claims should now be withdrawn. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 27, 35, 42, 44, 49, 53, 56, 57, and 63-64 in view of the above amendments. Claims 19, 27, 35, 42, and 49 have all been amended to recite that oxygen is removed by centrifuging the red blood cells under a vacuum sufficient to remove oxygen from the preparation. The Examiner has acknowledged that this subject matter is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. The Applicants thus respectfully request that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that the subject matter of claims 20-26, 28, 30-34, 36-41, 43, 45-48, 52, 54-55, 59, and 61-62 is allowable. The claimed subject matter involved removal of oxygen by centrifuging red blood cells under vacuum and/or washing the surfaces that will come into contact with the cross-linked hemoglobin with a dilute solution of hemoglobin. This subject matter is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

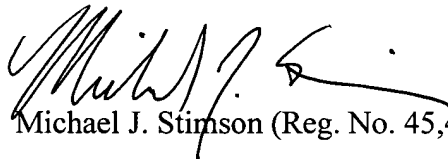
The Applicants have canceled all claims that were not directed to the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Independent claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 20. Independent claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 28. Independent claim 35 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 36. Independent claim 42 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 43. Finally, independent claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 52. Therefore, all of the pending independent claims should now be allowable. All of the pending dependent claims are thus also allowable because they depend from the allowable independent claims.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. The Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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